AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for programming recording of broadcast programs, comprising:

a recording device for recording onto a predetermined medium broadcast programs included in input signals;

a recording programming device for setting the recording start time and the recording end time of a given broadcast program, ~~in the broadcast programs,~~ to program the given broadcast program as a first recording-scheduled program;

a program information acquisition device for acquiring electronic program-guide information;

an extension keyword search device for searching the electronic program-guide information that relates to ~~a given program as a secondly-recording-scheduled~~ one or more broadcast programs, which are to be broadcast on the same channel and the same date as and prior to the ~~first~~ given broadcast program, for a predetermined extension keyword indicating a program extension or delay; and

a delay device for delaying the recording end time of the ~~first~~ given broadcast program in response to detection, as a result of the search by the extension keyword search device, of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found.

2. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising an extension time period setting device for setting an extension time period for obtaining a recording end time to be delayed by the delay device.

3. (Currently Amended) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein, in response to the detection of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found, the extension keyword device adds to the recording end time, which is set for the given broadcast ~~of the recording-scheduled~~ program, a value obtained by multiplying by a predetermined extension time period the number of broadcast programs in which an extension keyword has been found.

4. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the extension keyword is a phrase having at least a predetermined number of consecutive characters.

5. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the extension keyword is a combination of two or more predetermined non-consecutive phrases, and the spacing between phrases forming the combination falls within a predetermined number of characters.

6. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the electronic program guide information that relates to the second broadcast program is searched for a predetermined non-extension keyword indicating no extension/delay of the second broadcast program, and the broadcast program in which the non-extension keyword has been found is excluded from the search for the extension keyword.

7. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the extension keyword device performs a search on the electronic program-guide that relates to the second broadcast program, for a genre to which the second broadcast program belongs, and in response to detecting a genre which does not coincide with one of predetermined genres, then the extension keyword search device excludes a broadcast program in which the detected genre has been found from the search for the extension keyword.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method of setting the recording start time and the end time, and programming of recording a given broadcast program, in the broadcast programs, comprising:

  utilizing a processor to perform the following:

      acquire electronic program guide information;

      search electronic program guide information that relates to a second one or more broadcast programs, which are to be broadcast on the same channel and the same date as and prior to the first given broadcast program to be programmed, for a predetermined extension keyword indicating a broadcast program extension or delay; and

delay a previously-set recording end time of the first given broadcast program in response to detection, as a result of search in the step of searching for the extension keyword, of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found.

9. (Previously Presented) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, further comprising utilizing the processor to set an extension time period.

10. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein, in response to the detection of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found, the recording end time is delayed by:

computing a total extension time period obtained by multiplying by the predetermined extension time period the number of the broadcast programs in which the extension keyword has been found, and

delaying the first given broadcast program's previously-set recording end time is by the total extension time period.

11. (Previously Presented) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein the extension keyword includes a phrase having at least a predetermined number of consecutive alphabetic characters.

12. (Previously Presented) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein the extension keyword is a combination of two or more non-consecutive phrases, and the spacing between phrases forming the combination falls within a predetermined number of alphabetic characters.

13. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein the electronic program guide information that relates to the second one or more broadcast programs is searched for the predetermined non-extension keyword indicating that the second broadcast program is not extended or [[/]]delayed, and a program in which the non-extension keyword has been found is excluded from the search for the extension keyword.

14. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein the electronic program guide information that relates to the ~~second~~ one or more broadcast programs is found for the genre to which the second broadcast program belongs, and in response to detection of a genre which does not coincide with one of predetermined genres, then a broadcast program in which the detected genre has been found is excluded from the search for the extension keyword.